

New Hampshire Department of Education
Bureau of Special Education
101 Pleasant Street
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

February 8, 2016

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

RFP #SPED-2016-1

Educational Surrogate Parent Program: Regional Master Surrogate Parents

Deadline for Receipt of Proposals: 4:00pm, Monday, March 7, 2016

Proposal Inquiries: All questions about this Request for Proposals (RFP) should be submitted in writing by e-mail or fax (include your fax number) to:

Barbara Dauphinais
New Hampshire Department of Education
Bureau of Special Education
101 Pleasant Street
Concord, New Hampshire 03301
Fax: (603) 271-3791
E-mail: Barbara.Raymond@doe.nh.gov

The deadline for receipt of inquiries is 4:00pm, Wednesday, February 17, 2016. The Department of Education (**Department**) will address inquiries received by the deadline, in writing, if they are determined to be vital to the competitive bidding process, a written response will be sent no later than five (5) working days after the deadline to all who submitted inquiries. In addition, any modifications to the specifications contained in this RFP shall be made only in writing by the Department immediately following the deadline for receipt of inquiries and no other changes will be entertained after that date. All questions and responses will be posted on the New Hampshire Department of Education website (www.education.nh.gov). Verbal agreement or instructions from any other source are not authorized or binding on the State of New Hampshire (**State**).

All advisory committees are encouraged to distribute this Request for Proposals (RFP) to any/all qualified individuals/organizations.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this RFP is to seek proposals for up to five (5) Regional Master Educational Surrogate Parents who will be responsible for providing management, phone support, and e-mail support for educational surrogate parents in their assigned region. The Master Educational Surrogate Parent will also be responsible for temporary appointments as the educational surrogate parent in situations that require immediate appointment, situations that are viewed by the Department to need a master educational surrogate appointed, and situations where another available educational surrogate parent in the region cannot be identified. The five (5) regional groups are: (1) North Country; (2) Lakes Region; (3) Southwest; (4) South Central; and, (5) Southeast. Please be clear as to which region you are submitting a proposal for.

The New Hampshire Department of Education is responsible for training and assigning of educational surrogate parents for those educationally disabled students whose parents are unable to be located, unknown, the child is under legal guardianship of DCYF, a court has issued a written order for an educational surrogate parent, or a child is found to be homeless in accordance with the McKinney Vento Act. All requests and application materials for educational surrogate parents undergo a referral process based on the Rules prescribed in the *New Hampshire Rules for the Education of Children with Disabilities* (Amended as of May 16, 2014). The Educational Surrogate Parent Program serves Infants and Toddlers ages 0 to 3 years, and students up to the age of 21 years.

1.0 SERVICES TO BE PROVIDED

- 1.1 Agree to temporary educational surrogate parent appointments (up to at least four appointments for youth) in the region assigned to.
- 1.2 Provide support to educational surrogate parents in their assigned region via phone calls and e-mails.

2.0 REPORTING

The successful individual(s) shall provide the Bureau Coordinator of Special Education's Educational Surrogate Parent Program reports that detail the support they have provided to educational surrogate parents in their region and youth they have been assigned to represent as a Master Educational Surrogate Parent.

- 2.1 Monthly Reporting to be submitted with each invoice requesting payment, that outlines the support provided to other educational surrogate parents in the assigned region, and the support, meeting time, and other activities completed related to individual Master Surrogate Parent appointment(s).

3.0 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The successful individual(s) will inform the Department of any conflicts of interest (appearance of, or actual) prior to accepting the contract or while engaged in the contract.

4.0 MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

- 4.1 Must be a current certified educational surrogate parent actively appointed to at least one New Hampshire student in need of an educational surrogate parent.
- 4.2 Extensive knowledge and experience in special education.
- 4.3 Working knowledge of the region and the resources within that region.
- 4.4 The ability to work with representatives from State agencies, partner organizations, school districts, individuals with disabilities, social workers, family services, and possibly court systems.
- 4.5 Effective communication skills (oral and written).
- 4.6 Must be able to utilize email as a form of communication; and
- 4.7 Leadership, facilitation skills and ensuring confidentiality of student information.

5.0 COMPENSATION

Applicants will be compensated at \$25.00 per hour, to include travel time, not to exceed \$8,000.00 per individual, annually.

6.0 TERMS & CONDITIONS

- 6.1 The State shall not be responsible for or pay any costs incurred by the bidder in the preparation of the proposal submitted in response to this RFP.
- 6.2 The NHDOE reserves the right to seek clarification of any information contained in a proposal submitted in response to this RFP.
- 6.3 The NHDOE reserves the right to reject any and all proposals submitted in response to this RFP. In addition, the distribution of this RFP shall not commit the State to issue a contract.
- 6.4 If the NHDOE chooses to award a contract in response to this RFP, the successful bidder shall be notified by letter. The NHDOE shall then develop a contract for Governor and Council approval. The contract shall incorporate, by reference, all provisions of this RFP and the successful bidder's proposal. In preparing a contract with the successful bidder, the NHDOE reserves the right to clarify any terms and conditions contained in the proposal.
- 6.5 Public announcements or news releases pertaining to the award of a contract shall not be made until approved by the Governor and Council.
- 6.6 The State shall not be responsible for any work performed by the successful bidder prior to the effective date of a contract approved by Governor and Council.
- 6.7 All obligations of the State, including the continuance of payments under an approved contract shall be contingent upon the availability and continued appropriation of State, federal or other funds and in no event shall the State be liable for any payments in excess of such available appropriated funds. In the event of a reduction or termination of those funds, the State shall have the right to withhold payment until such funds become available, if ever, and shall have the right to terminate or amend the contract immediately upon giving the contractor notice of such termination or amendment.
- 6.8 When delivering services under an approved contract, the contractor shall work under the broad supervision of the NHDOE Contracting Officer for this project.
- 6.9 Unless otherwise deleted or modified by mutual agreement between the State and the contractor, all general provisions contained on the Form P-37 (see **Attachment A**) shall be incorporated into the contract.
- 6.10 The NHDOE expects to award a contract to the successful bidder. Unless there is a change in the program requirements and/or services to be delivered, the cost for this contract shall not exceed the amount bid in response to the **Services to be Provided** section of this RFP.

The successful bidder will be required to provide the Department with the following information:

- A recent financial statement, and
- A Certificate of Existence from the Secretary of State's Office

In addition, the successful bidder will need to submit a Certificate of Authority authorizing the company to do business with the State of New Hampshire, Department of Education at the time the contract is signed.

- 6.11 **"Any information submitted as part of a bid in response to this request for proposal (RFP) (or request for bid (RFP) or request for information (RFI) may be subject to public disclosure under RSA 91-A. In addition, in accordance with RSA 9-F:1, any contract entered into as a result of this RFP (RFI, or RFB) will be made accessible to the public online via the website Transparent NH (<http://www.nh.gov/transparentnh/>). Accordingly, business financial information and proprietary information such as trade secrets, business and financials models and forecasts, and proprietary formulas may be exempt from public disclosure under RSA 91-A:5, IV. If you believe any information being submitted in response to a request for proposal, bid or information, should be kept confidential as financial or proprietary information, you must specifically identify that information in a letter to the agency."**

6.12 Audit

Sec. 80.26 Non-Federal audit

(a) Basic Rule. Grantees and sub grantees are responsible for obtaining audits in accordance with the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996 (31 U.S.C. 7501-7507) and revised OMB Circular A-133, "Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations." The audits shall be made by an independent auditor in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards covering financial audits.

(b) Sub grantees. State or local governments, as those terms are defined for purposes of the Single Audit

Act Amendments of 1996, that provide Federal awards to a sub grantee, which expends \$300,000 or more (or other amount as specified by OMB) in Federal awards in a fiscal year, shall:

(1) Determine whether State or local sub grantees have met the audit requirements of the Act and whether sub grantees covered by OMB Circular A-110, "Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Agreements with Institutions of Higher Education, Hospitals, and Other Non-Profit organizations," have met the audit requirements of the Act. Commercial contractors (private for profit and private and governmental organizations) providing goods and services to State and local governments are not required to have a single audit performed. State and local governments should use their own procedures to ensure that the contractor has complied with laws and regulations affecting the expenditures of Federal funds.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION REGARDING THE AFOREMENTIONED CIRCULARS, GO TO www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants/index.html

6.13 Debarment and Suspension

Organization/Individual submitting a proposal will comply with the provision of the US Code of Federal Regulations 34 CFR 364 and the following US Circular if applicable: Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-110 "Uniform Administrative Non-Profit Organizations.

The bidder/offer or certifies, by submission of this proposal or acceptance of this contract, that neither it nor its principals is presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction by any federal department or agency. It further agrees by submitting this proposal that it will include this clause without modification in all lower tier transactions, solicitations, proposals, contracts, and subcontracts. Where the bidder/offer or/contractor or any lower tier participant is unable to certify to this statement, it shall attach an explanation to this solicitation/proposal.

6.14 Copyrights

The Department reserves a royalty-free, nonexclusive, and irrevocable license to reproduce, publish or otherwise use, and to authorize others to use, for Department of Education purposes:

- (a) The copyright in any work developed under a grant, subgrant, or contract under a grant or contract under a grant or subgrant; and
- (b) Any rights of copyright to which a grantee, subgrantee or a contractor purchases ownership with grant support.

7.0 LIMITATIONS ON AMOUNT AND CONTRACT PERIOD

- 7.1 The Department expects to award one year contract(s) effective July 1, 2016, or Governor & Council approval, whichever is later, to up to five individual contractor(s). Unless there is a change in the plan requirements and/or services to be delivered, the cost for each individual contract shall not exceed the amount of \$8,000.00 annually; a total of five awards not to exceed \$40,000.00 over the one year contract period.

8.0 Bid Procedures

8.1 For purposes of this RFP, a proposal will include:

- 8.1.1 a letter of interest detailing professional, volunteer, or educational experience as related to the Services to be Provided (1.0); Reporting (2.0), Conflict of Interest (3.0) and the Minimum Requirements (4.0);
- 8.1.2 three (3) letters of recommendation that highlight applicants skills or abilities to carry out the RFP requirements in sections 1.0 through 4.0;
- 8.1.3 any product that may demonstrate your level of expertise; and
- 8.1.4 a current resume.

8.2 This documentation will be evaluated to determine if the candidate has the ability to accomplish the Services to be Provided and meets or exceeds the Minimum Requirements. This evaluation will be based on the candidate's ability to provide evidence of the following criteria:

8.2.1 Significance of Proposal – Description of applicant's abilities to meet or exceed the Minimum Requirements (4.0), including a description of their volunteer and work experience and educational background. This will include a review of the letter of interest, letters of recommendation and resume (40 pts).

8.2.2 Quality of Services to be Provided – the applicant's ability to accomplish the Services to be Provided (1.0) as evidenced through the documentation submitted, including any products that may demonstrate your level of expertise and experience.

8.2.2(a) Content knowledge, including but not limited to, knowledge of the Educational Surrogate Parent Program and the role of an educational surrogate parent, State and federal Special Education laws, Special Education policy and procedures, regional knowledge and other areas of knowledge that supports the accomplishment of the Services to be Provided (30 pts).

8.2.2(b) Technical Skills, including but not limited to, facilitation, leadership, collaboration, communication, confidentiality and report writing (30 pts).

8.3 Each bidder shall submit, along with the formal proposal, a completed/signed "Alternate W-9 Form" (see **Attachment B**).

8.4 Each bidder shall submit, along with the formal proposal, a completed/signed "Cover Page" (see **Attachment C**).

8.5 An original and four (4) identical copies of a formal proposal shall be submitted by 4:00pm, Monday, March 7, 2016 to:

Barbara Dauphinais
New Hampshire Department of Education
Bureau of Special Education
101 Pleasant Street
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9.0 Evaluation of Proposals

All proposals will be reviewed and rated by an evaluation team appointed by the Commissioner of Education. The Department shall be under no obligation to contact bidders for clarification of their proposals, but it shall reserve the right to do so at any time prior to the award of the contract(s). All proposals received by the deadline will be evaluated based on the Bid Procedures outlined in this RFP.

The Department reserves the right to interview applicants with the highest average scores for their proposal, but the Department shall be under no obligation to interview applicants. If the Department conducts an interview, it will be done so by a team who will develop structured questions and scoring criteria that will clarify the applicant's ability to fulfill this RFP.

If the Department chooses to award contract(s) relative to this RFP, it shall be to the responsive and responsible bidders that receives the highest total rating as a result of the proposal evaluation and/or interview process.

Upon conclusion of final negotiations with the successful proposer, all proposers will be notified in writing of their status, upon final approval of a contract by Governor & Council.

10.0 Post Submission Deadline

After the submission deadline, the Department will post, on its website, the number of proposals that it received from vendors.

After the Department's review and selection of a vendor, it will post all vendor names and their rank or score five days prior to submission of the Governor and Council contract packet to the Department of Administrative Services.

A vendor questioning the Department's identification of the selected vendor may request that the Department review its selection process. The request shall be in writing and be submitted to the Department within five (5) business days of the posting of the bid results, rank or score.

The Department has five (5) business days to review the request and issue a written response either affirming its initial selection of a vendor or cancelling the RFP. No hearing shall be held as part of the review. The outcome of the Department's review is not subject to appeal.

Enclosures:

Attachment A: P-37 Contract Form

Attachment B: ALT W-9 Form

Attachment C: Cover Page